

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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P R 201106Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7282
USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 BELGRADE 5318

GENEVA PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, YO, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA JULY 16-18

REF: STATE 179595

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR YOUNG PAID A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA JULY 16-18. THE YUGOSLAV WERE OBVIOUSLY DELIGHTED TO HAVE HIM HERE. THEY VIEWED HIS PRESENCE ON THE EVE OF THE BELGRADE NAM FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL, FRIENDLY, AND VERY CANDID EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. FOREIGN SECRETARY JOSIP VRHOVEC WAS AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S HOST. VRHOVEC SET ASIDE AN HOUR AND A HALF FOR FORMAL DISCUSSIONS, HOSTED A LUNCH, AND ALONG WITH FIVE OTHER SENIOR FOREIGN OFFICIALS ALSO ATTENDED A DINNER HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR EAGLEBURGER. MOST STRIKING WERE THE EXCHANGES WITH VRHOVEC ABOUT THE CUBAN ROLE IN THE NAM (REPORTED SPETEL). PROTOCOL NICETIES WERE OBSERVED WITH A VISIT TO FEDERAL ASSEMBLY VICE PRESIDENT RUDI KOLAK (ASSEMBLY
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PRESIDENT MARKOVIC IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES). THE YUGOSLAVS ALSO HOSTED AN AFTERNOON EXCURSION FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND HIS FAMILY, WHICH ALSO AFFORDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME DISCUSSION OF YUGOSLAV POLICY WITH REGARD TO NATIONAL MINORITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. YOUNG WAS RECEIVED CORDIALLY BY HIS HOST, YUGOSLAV SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS JOSIP VRHOVEC, DURING A TWO DAY VISIT TO BELGRADE JULY 16-18. OBVIOUSLY PLEASED AT THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE EVE OF THE BELGRADE NAM FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING, AND DESPITE THE INTENSE WORK PRESSURES ON THE EVE OF THAT MEETING, VRHOVEC SET ASIDE A GOOD PORTION OF JULY 17 FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. THOSE PORTIONS DEALING WITH CUBA AND ITS ROLE WITHIN THE NAM ARE REPORTED SEPTEL. FOLLOWING ARE POINTS OF INTEREST WHICH EMERGED FROM THE VRHOVEC-YOUNG DISCUSSIONS ON OTHER SUBJECTS.

3. RESPECT FOR YUGOSLAVIA'S ROLE IN THE NAM. AMBASSADOR YOUNG STRESSED THE PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES TO THE YUGOSLAV ROLE WITHIN THE NAM AND ALSO AT THE UN. HE PRAISED YUGOSLAV UNDERSECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MOJSOV'S PERFORMANCE AS PRESIDENT OF THIS YEAR'S UNGA, TERMING HIS A BRILLIANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESSES REGISTERED BY THE GA THIS YEAR.

4. US-SOVIET RELATIONS. AMBASSADOR YOUNG EXPLAINED TO SECRETARY VRHOVEC THAT THERE IS A GROWING FEELING IN THE UNITED STATES THAT IF MOSCOW IS GOING TO FLOUT THE HELSINKI ACCORDS, AS IT IS NOW DOING WITH THE TRIALS OF SHCHARANSKY AND GINZBURG, AND THUS PREVENT THE MONITORING OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, THEN IT IS ALL CONFIDENTIAL

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THE MORE LIKELY THAT THE SOVIETS WILL ALSO SOMEHOW EVADE VERIFICATION OF A NEW SALT AGREEMENT. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN WITH HUMAN RIGHTS, AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID, IS NOT AIMED AT ANY SPECIFIC COUNTRY. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS EVERYWHERE, IN THE USSR, IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN LATIN AMERICA, AND IN OUR OWN COUNTRY. HOWEVER, HE SAID THE SOVIETS MAKE A GREAT MISTAKE IN TREATING THOSE OF THEIR OWN CITIZENS WHO SIMPLY SEEK GREATER PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS AS CAPITALIST INSPIRED. WHAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOW DOING TO SHCHARANSKY AND GINZBURG CREATES REAL STRAINS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

5. SECRETARY VRHOVEC REPLIED THAT YUGOSLAVS HAVE NO REASON TO DEFEND THE SOVIETS ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE YUGOSLAV BREAK WITH THE SOVIETS IN 1948 WAS AT LEAST PARTLY OVER THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HOWEVER, VRHOVEC ADDED, THE SOVIETS ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ON THIS SUBJECT, AND STATES MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO TAKE

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ACTIONS WHICH RESULT IN ACHIEVING PRECISELY THE OPPOSITE
INTENDED. YUGOSLAVIA BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT TO CREATE
A WORLD ATMOSPHERE WHICH ENCOURAGES AND IN FACT PRESSURES
ALL NATIONS "IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION." BUT TO PUT THE
HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE THE WAY THE UNITED STATES IS DOING
ONLY CREATES DISTURBING DIFFERENCES WHILE ACHIEVING
LITTLE. PRECISELY BECAUSE THE SOVIETS KNOW THEY ARE
VULNERABLE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE THEY ARE ALL THE
MORE SENSITIVE WHEN IT IS RAISED BY THE UNITED STATES.
THEY REGARD THIS AS AN INSTRUMENT EMPLOYED "BY THE OTHER GREAT
POWER" AGAINST THEM. IF HUMAN RIGHTS BECOMES AN INSTRUMENT OF
PROPAGANDA, AN INSTRUMENT OF "WAR", THEN ANY COUNTRY CAN FIND
PLENTY OF AMMUNITION TO USE AGAINST OTHERS. IN THE END HUMAN
RIGHTS WILL NOT BE PROMOTED, VRHOVEC SAID. HONEST
CRITICISM ARISING FROM GOOD INTENTIONS IS ALWAYS WELCOME,
BUT HE NOTED THAT EVEN IN WESTERN EUROPE--WHICH BASICALLY
SHARES THE US ATTITUDE TOWARDS HUMAN RIGHTS--THERE IS
SUBSTANTIAL DISAGREEMENT WITH THEIR APPROACH. IN
VRHOVEC'S OPINION, HUMAN RIGHTS "SHOULD NOT BECOME A
BURDEN ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, YET A DANGER EXISTS
THAT IT WILL BECOME SO."

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6. MIDDLE EAST. VRHOVEC EXPRESSED PESSIMISM OVER THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE INSISTED ISRAEL REMAINS THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS. HE SEES NO ISRAELI INCLINATION TO MOVE ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED AMERICAN EFFORTS TO FIND AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION, BUT HE ADDED WITH A SMILE "THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT--YOU COULD DO MORE WITH THE ISRAELIS." AMBASSADOR YOUNG RESPONDED THAT THE SITUATION MAY NOT BE QUITE AS GLOOMY AS VRHOVEC PERCEIVES. WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN, AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID, TO HOLD ISRAEL TO RESOLUTION 242. ONE CAN BE ASSURED WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN IN THIS WEEK'S MEETING IN ENGLAND. AMB YOUNG ALSO CLAIMED THAT HE BELIEVES THERE IS A DEEP DIVISION WITHIN PRIMED MINISTER BEGIN'S OWN PARTY OVER KEY ISSUES. ISRAEL MAY YET CONCLUDE THAT CONCESSIONS ARE IN ITS OWN INTERESTS. VRHOVEC OBSERVED THAT YUGOSLAVIA DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE APPROACH RECENTLY TAKEN BY EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT. AN ARAB CONSENSUS IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR PEACE, HE SAID, AND SADAT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO GATHER A CONSENSUS BEHIND HIS APPROACH. HOWEVER, YUGOSLAVA HAS ALWAYS ACCEPTED ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AND TO BE SECURE. WE COULD COUNT ON YUGOSLAV SUPPORT FOR POLICIES WHICH WILL BRING REAL PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT, SO LONG AS ISRAEL RELIES ON "MILITARY MEANS" TO SECURE HER OWN SAFETY, SHE WILL REMAIN IN FACT IN DANGER. AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID IF THERE IS ONE THING ON WHICH WE AND YUGOSLAVIA DO NOT AGREE, THAT IS WE DO NOT EQUATE EQUITY IN SOLVING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WITH WHATEVER THE PLO SAYS IS EQUITABLE. THERE IS ROOM FOR MORE FLEXIBILITY IN PLO POLICY, AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID.

7. AFRICAN QUESTIONS. VRHOVEC WAS EXTREMELY INTERESTED
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IN AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S DESCRIPTION OF RECENT PROGRESS TOWARD SOLVING THE NAMIBIAN QUESTION. WHEN AMBASSADOR YOUNG MENTIONED THE PROSPECT FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON THE SUBJECT LATER THIS MONTH, PERHAPS JULY 24 OR 25, VRHOVEC RESPONDED THAT THIS WOULD BE "INCONVENIENT" FOR THE NAM STATES, WHO WILL JUST BE BEGINNING THEIR MEETING IN BELGRADE. HOWEVER, HE HOPED THAT A SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND AND SOON. VRHOVEC DID NOT COMMENT DIRECTLY ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S EXPLANATION THAT IN OUR VIEW WE SHOULD MOVE THIS MONTH IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, WHILE CANADA IS IN THE CHAIR, NOT WAITING FOR NEXT MONTH WHICH WILL FIND CHINA IN THE CHAIR.

8. IN DISCUSSING RHODESIA, AMBASSADOR YOUNG EXPLAINED HIS VIEW THAT ONCE A UN PRESENCE IS ESTABLISHED IN NAMIBIA--HOPEFULLY BY SEPTEMBER--THE PROSPECTS FOR A

SIMILAR SOLUTION IN RHODESIA SHOULD IMPROVE. HOWEVER, THERE IS A DANGER THAT THE ALREADY SERIOUS SITUATION IN RHODESIA, WITH MUTUAL SLAUGHTER ESCALATING DAY BY DAY, WILL GET COMPLETELY OUT OF HAND. ANY INDICATION OF OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN THE RHODESIAN SITUATION COULD ONLY MAKE MATTERS MUCH WORSE. VRHOVEC AGREED THAT THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA IS VERY DIFFICULT. YUGOSLAVIA

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BELIEVES THAT THE BASIC QUESTION REMAINS THE RACIST REGIME AND ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO CHANGE. HE AGREED THAT "BLOC INTERVENTION" WOULD BE VERY BAD, BUT HE SAID HIS CONTACTS WITH AFRICAN STATES GENERALLY LED HIM TO BELIEVE THEY ARE CONVINCED THE PROBLEM IS RACISM AND THAT "YOU ARE BEHIND THAT."

9. AMB YOUNG EXPRESSED SOME OPTIMISM OVER THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA. HE POINTED OUT WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE ANGOLA GOVERNMENT AND WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO NORMALIZED RELATIONS WITH IT. THE ANGOLANS HAVE BEEN SHOWING REAL CONCERN OVER THEIR NORTHERN BORDER WITH SHABA, AND HE HOPES THERE WILL BE NO RECURRENCE OF THE INCURSION.

10. PEACE KEEPING. AMB YOUNG TOLD SECRETARY VRHOVEC THAT WHILE HE HAS NO OFFICIAL US POSITION TO STATE ON THE MATTER, IT WAS HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT YUGOSLAV PARTICIPATION IN PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN AFRICA COULD BE

VERY USEFUL. AMB YOUNG POINTED OUT THE IMMEDIATE NEED
FOR TROOPS IN A NAMIBIAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE AND THAT
THERE MIGHT BE A NEED SOON FOR CONTRIBUTION TO A RHODESIAN
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PEACEKEEPING FORCE. SECRETARY VRHOVEC DID NOT RESPOND TO
THIS REMARK BY AMB YOUNG.

11. PUERTO RICO. DURING DINNER EVENING OF JULY 17
ATTENDED BY VRHOVEC AND RANKING FOREIGN SECRETARIAT
OFFICERS, AMB YOUNG ALSO EXPLAINED THE STRONGLY HELD
US VIEWS ON THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUES ALONG THE LINES
OF PARAGRAPH 2 REFTTEL. THE US CASE IS SO STRONG ON
THIS ISSUE, AMB YOUNG STRESSED, THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY
INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE NAM TO PURSUE IT. TO DO SO WOULD, IN
FACT, BE SEEN TO WEAKEN THE NAM CASE IN OTHER ISSUES
WERE IT IS BOTH VALID AND STRONG.

12. CALL ON ASSEMBLY VICE PRESIDENT KOLAK. AMB YOUNG
PAID A COURTESY CALL ON FEDERAL ASSEMBLY VICE PRESIDENT
KOLAK MORNING JULY 17. (ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT MAKROVIC WAS
ABSENT ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE US) WHILE ARRANGED
PRIMARILY AS A PROTOCOL COURTESY, AMB YOUNG AND KOLAK
HAD A SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF
SUBJECTS, INCLUDING US ADMIRATION FOR YUGOSLAVIA'S NAM ROLE,
RESPECT FOR THE NAM, AND THE YUGOSLAV FEDERAL SYSTEM.
WE ARE NOT REPORTING THIS CONVERSATION IN DETAIL BECAUSE
KOLAK PRESENTED STANDARD YUGOSLAV FORMULATIONS, ALTHOUGH
IN A GENIAL AND INFORMATIVE MANNER.

13. THIS MESSAGE WAS NOT SEEN BY AMB YOUNG BEFORE HIS
DEPARTURE FOR BUCHAREST.
WORTZEL

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Message Attributes

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